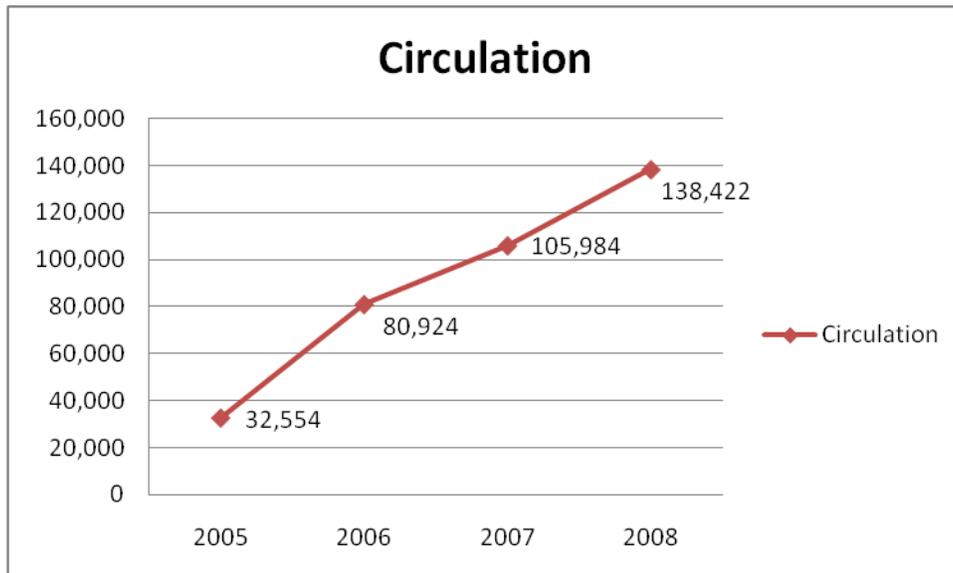
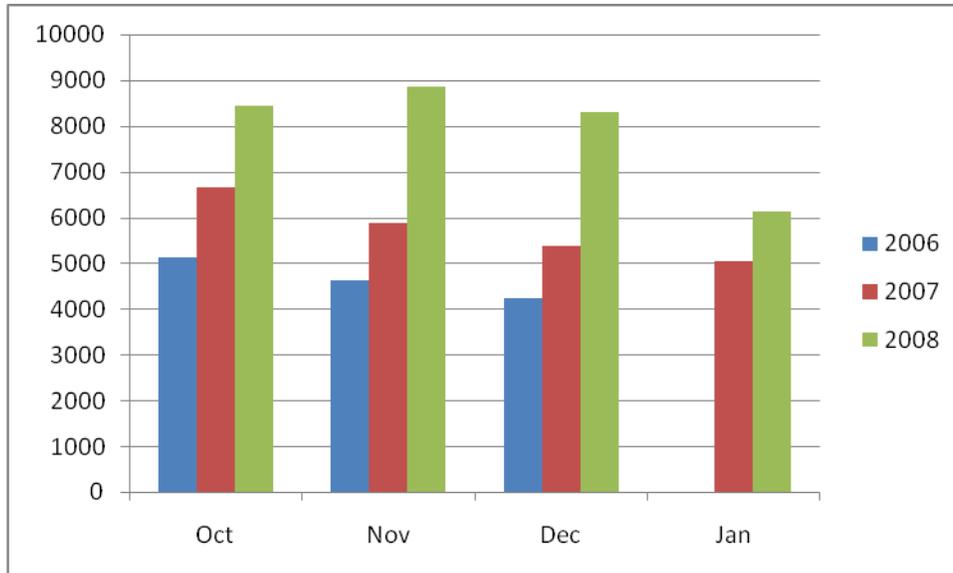


Director's Report for December 2008

December's circulation (8293) decreased by 6% from November (8858), but increased 54% from this time last year (5380). Preliminary reports indicate that total circulation for 2008 is 138,422. This is a 31% increase over 2007 (105,984).



Museum Aid Hired. Ms. DeeDee Ruggiero was hired as a part time museum aid at the History Center. She is a political science graduate from Stockton University and has professional certification as a library assistant in research and academic libraries with course work from Rutgers. She will start in mid-January.

Avalon Free Public Library History Center Receives County Grants. The AFPL History Center has received a series of Cape May County grants totaling over \$900 from the Division of Culture and Heritage and the Board of Chosen Freeholders. With funds awarded by the Division of Culture and Heritage, the Center will

present three art-related presentations: David Emerson, Historical Interpreter, Saul Broudy, Ph.D., Folklorist and Performer, and a Spiral Q Puppet Theatre performance. Program dates will be announced in 2009. The Freeholders grant will be used for the creation of sign display panels detailing the processes and ecology of Barrier Island Life and natural history.

New Formats – The library has begun acquiring video programs Blu-ray format and Ninetindo DS video games. **Blu-ray**, also known as Blu-ray Disc (BD), is the name of what some consider the next-generation optical disc format which enables recording, rewriting and playback of high-definition video (HD). At present, the library will limit development of this collection to movie blockbusters. Nintendo DS is a hand held video game console with 2 LCD screens, microphone, and wireless enabled which allows multiplayer gaming. The library will no longer purchase Play Station 2 game formats. Both formats will be available to our patrons later this month.

Customer Service Workshop at AFPL – The library in collaboration with the South Jersey Regional Library Cooperative will be hosting a 6 hour workshop on customer service fundamentals on January 21. The presenter is Luisa Pasteur, staff development librarian, Princeton University Library. The library will be closed that to patrons to accommodate both this workshop and the installation and upgrades to the Millenium server and software.